

VIA EXPRESS MAIL NO. EV265083804US
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Donald J. Larnard

Application No.: Not Yet Assigned

Filing Date: Herein

Entitled: ACCESSORY FOR SURGICAL
INSTRUMENT

Docket No.: 22521-19CON

Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner For Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22312-1450

Dear Sir:

It is desired to cite for the record in this application the articles, United States and foreign patents listed on the attached copy of Form PTO/SB/08A. The paragraph(s) marked below are applicable to this Information Disclosure Statement.

The attached Form PTO/SB/08A provides a listing of information which may be relevant to the subject application. This Information Disclosure Statement is not intended as a representation that better art is not available, or that the information provided is prior art.

In accordance with M.P.E.P. § 609, copies of the cited references are not provided herewith because (1) the information was previously cited and/or submitted in connection with

parent application no. 10/274,940 which is relied on for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120; and (2) the IDS submitted in the earlier application complies with 37 CFR 1.98(a)-(c).

[x] (1) The enclosed Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date or within three months of the date of entry of the national stage of the above-identified application. Accordingly, Applicant(s) believes that no fee or certification is required.

[] (1a) The enclosed Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing of a first Office action on the merits under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(3); or before the mailing of a first Office action after the filing of a request for continued examination under §1.114. Accordingly, Applicant(s) believes that no fee or certification is required.

[] (1b) Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c), the enclosed Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a final action or a notice of allowance and is accompanied by the fee set forth in § 1.17(p).

[] (2) Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d), Applicant states that the issue fee has not been paid and that a certification under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) is provided herein, along with the fee of \$180.00 required under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p).

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) (1)

[] (3) The undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in the attached Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application mailed not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) (2)

[] (4) The undersigned hereby certifies that no item of information contained in the attached Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the undersigned, after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual having a duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement is not representation by the undersigned as to the personal knowledge of the contents of every word or phrase of the material enclosed or that reliance on other suitably trained professionals has not been made.

If a search report of a searching agency is enclosed identifying the nature of the relevance of each document, such a designation is deemed to satisfy Rule 98(a) (3) even if in a foreign language, since the few terms of relevance therein are deemed of universal cognizance. However, Applicant does not necessarily adopt the position reflected by that report.

It is respectfully requested that the cited references be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO/SB/08A be initialed and returned to us indicating that such information has been considered.

Application No.: Not Yet Assigned

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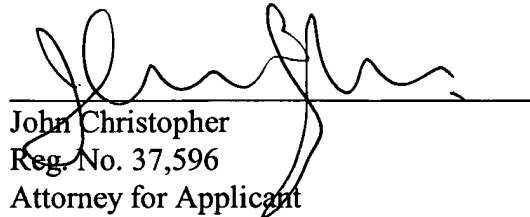
Atty. Docket No. 22521-19CON

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to credit overpayments or charge payment of any additional fees associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 502104.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 9, 2004

By:



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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Complete if Known		
				Applicant Number	Not Yet Assigned	
				Filing Date	Herein	
				First Named Inventor	Donald J. Larnard	
				Art Unit	Not Yet Assigned	
Examiner Name				Not Yet Assigned		
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	22521-19CON	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials *	Cite No. ¹	Document Number Number- Kind Code ² (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	
		US- 3,882,855	05/13/1975	R. R. Schulte et al.		
		US- 4,972,825	11/27/1990	L. J. Vescovo		
		US- 5,007,409	04/16/1991	S. G. Pope		
		US- 5,390,734	02/21/1995	D. W. Voorhes et al.		
		US- 5,709,646	01/20/1998	N. E. Lange		
		US- 6,196,839 B1	03/06/2001	R. G. Ross		
		US- 2003/0144593 A1	07/31/2003	W. E. Whitmore et al.		
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document Country Code ³ - Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
Examiner Signature			Date Considered			

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP901.04. ³

³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.